

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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O 090031Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM AEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6692
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ROWLANDS VISIT TO GUATEMALA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS JULY 8 CITE
GUATEMALA FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS SAYING THAT GREAT BRITAIN
WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW THE TROOPS AND THE ARMAMENTS WHICH ARE
CONTINUING TO ARRIVE IN BELIZE "UP TO THE PRESENT TIME" AS A
PREREQUISITE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF BRITISH MINISTER ROWLANDS IN
GUATEMALA.

2. OPPOSITION AFTERNOON DAILY, LA TARDE, ALSO SAYS "MAJOR
ROLANDO ARCHILA MARROQUIN, SUB-SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS
OF THE PRESIDENCY, SAID THAT FOR THE TALKS WITH GREAT BRITAIN
IN SEARCH OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF BELIZE
TO TAKE PLACE IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT THE BRITISH TROOPS
WITHDRAW FROM THAT PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.

3. "THE ARRIVAL IN GUATEMALA OF MR. TED ROWLANDS, MINISTER
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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SIC) OF ENGLAND IS ANTICIPATED FOR THE
COMING WEEK. THE BRITISH OFFICIAL WILL ARRIVE WITH THE OBJECT
OF CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS ON BELIZE AND MAKING
POSSIBLE A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN BELIZE; HOWEVER,
SAID MAJOR ARCHILA, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER
A CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS IF BRITISH INTIMIDATING
MANEUVERS AGAINST GUATEMALA CONTINUE. A WITHDRAWAL

OF THE TROOPS IS NECESSARY."

4. BEGIN LOU COMMENT: IN THE LA TARDE STROY FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS WELL AS VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OBIOLS ARE CITED AND IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER OBIOLS OR THE "OTHER SOURCES" ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATEMENT CONDITIONING ROWLANDS' VISIT. MOREOVER, IT IS UNCLEAR FROM THE ARCHILA STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE WHETHER HE IS SAYING THAT THE BRITISH TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN IN ORDER FOR THE ROWLANDS VISIT TO TAKE PLACE OR WHETHER HE IS REFERRING TO THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE WITH BRITISH IN THE INDEFINITE FUTURE. END COMMENT END LOU.

5. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE PRESS ALSO QUOTES FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS SAYING THAT PLANES TRANSPORTING MORE BRITISH TROOPS ARE CONTINUING TO ARRIVE AND THAT THERE ARE NOW AT LEAST SEVEN THOUSAND BRITISH TROOPS IN BELIZE.

6. LA TARDE AND INDEPENDENT AFTERNOON DAILY EL IMPARCIAL ALSO CARRIED UPI AND AFP WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM LONDON CITING BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT WITH THE REINFORCEMENTS SENT TO BELIZE THE BRITISH GARRISON NOW NUMBERS SOME FIFTEEN HUNDRED SOLDIERS IN CONTRAST TO SOME TEN THOUSAND MEN IN THE GUATEMALAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMY. FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN ALSO CITED AS SAYING GREAT BRITAIN HAS RENEWED ITS OFFER OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN RETURN FOR A GUATEMALAN PROMISE TO NOT INVADE BELIZE. BOSTER

(SIGCENT NOTE: INFO ADDEES NUMBERS WILL BE FORWARDED LATER.))

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, OVIP, GT, UK, BH, (ROWLANDS, TED)
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